

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-12 are in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, and 12 are amended and claims 6 and 7 are canceled.

Claims 1-5 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the United Kingdom patent ('652) or the European patent ('651). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests that claims 1-5 and 11 be reconsidered in view of these remarks and in view of the amendment of Claim 1 and passed to issue.

As amended, Claim 1 sets forth an air vent for a vehicle air ventilation system including an air inlet, an air outlet, a screen located at the air outlet, with the screen being moveable from a closed condition in which air flow through the outlet is impeded to an open condition allowing air flow through the outlet, with the screen having at least one aperture permitting some air flow through the screen when the screen is in its closed condition. The air vent further includes an air flow control valve located at the air inlet and a control actuator located at the air outlet, with the control actuator being coupled to the air flow control valve and screen so that after a predetermined movement of the control actuator, further movement causes movement of the screen from a closed to an open condition.

As set forth above, applicant's air vent system allows a flow of air through the screen located at the air outlet even when the screen is nominally in a closed condition. Furthermore, the flow in this condition is controlled by means of an air flow control valve, 15, located in the air inlet and operated by a control actuator so that the air flow control valve will partially open even when the screen remains in its nominally closed position. Thus, with the air flow control valve open a small amount, a soft flow of air will be allowed to flow through the air vent through the nominally closed screen. In contrast, United Kingdom patent '652 and European patent '651 do not disclose systems having a combination of an air flow valve and a screen, in which a partially open air flow valve and an aperture through the screen allow air flow through the system when

the screen is in its closed position. As a result, claims 1-5 and 11, as amended, are allowable over the Examiner's rejection and should be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

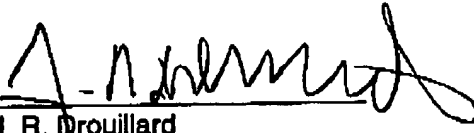
Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Kamio*. The Examiner states that the fins shown in *Kamio's* Fig. 24 when in a closed position cannot completely cut off wind blown out from the air outlet since *Kamio* indicates that the shutter valve does that. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests that claims 1-12 be reconsidered in view of these remarks and in further view of the amendment of claim 1, and passed to issue over the Examiner's rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Kamio* does not anticipate the claimed invention, because *Kamio's* screen does not appear to have any openings to allow any sort of sensible air flow when the screen is in the closed position. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the various figures of *Kamio*, particularly, Fig. 2 wherein it is noted there are no apertures formed in any of the various louvers of *Kamio* which are shown at 3 in Fig. 2. The Examiner's attention is further directed to *Kamio's* Fig. 24, wherein the absence of any apertures through *Kamio's* louvers, shutters, or screen is noted. For the foregoing reasons, each of the Claims remaining in this case is allowable over *Kamio* and should be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that vanes mounted behind the screen is misdescriptive because the vane is the screen. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and notes that the vanes 24 referred to in applicant's specification refer to turning vanes which are mounted behind applicant's screen. Thus, no correction is required and each of the claims remaining in this case is in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,


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